UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1999/145
7 April 1999

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 9

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Letter dated 5 April 1999 from the Ambassador, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith,* a letter His Excellency Zivadan Jovanovic, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has addressed to Mr. Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO. I would like to ask you to have it circulated as an official document of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 9.

(Signed): Branko Brankovic

Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

---

* The enclosure is reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

Belgrade, 3 April 1999

Mr. Director-General,

With reference to your letter of 2 April 1999, I should like to inform you of further escalation in bombing the territory of the FR of Yugoslavia by NATO aggressors.

The aggressor air forces increasingly and more extensively bomb civilian targets - cities and villages, infrastructure. As I have already informed you, particularly endangered are cultural monuments across the Yugoslav territory.

The latest example of this barbaric act is the destruction of a bridge on the Danube, which connected Novi Sad with Petrovaradin. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this bridge has a particular place in cultural-historical heritage of Yugoslavia and Europe and is under State protection. In April 1942, Nazis shot and threw in the river thousands of arrested civilians, primarily Jews and Serbs from that bridge.

In the immediate vicinity of the Bridge of Sorrow, there is a Square of the Victims of Fascism, with the monument containing the names of killed Serbs and Jews, symbolizing the unity of multi-ethnic Vojvodina in the fight against the Fascist occupier.

Unfortunately, today these sacrosanct symbols of history and culture not only of Yugoslavia but of entire Europe as well, have been lastingly scarred by the barbaric aggression of USA and NATO, contrary to all civilizational norms. The destruction of the bridge has left 600.000 residents without water, and the navigation along this international waterway has been discontinued.

I again call upon you to raise your voice so that UNESCO may engage that his senseless aggression by NATO he immediately stopped, threatening with its barbaric nature the holiest values of European culture and historical heritage.

Please accept, Mr. General Director, the assurances of my high consideration.

Zivadin Jovanovic
(signed)

Mr. Federico Mayor
General-Director
U N E S C O
Paris

- - - - -